BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Ips Prevention

Ruidoso Ranger District
Lincoln National Forest
New Mexico

1971

A thinning project at Cedar Creek Camp Recreation Site has provided much material that is highly susceptible to ips attack. Some of the bucked material has already been infested. Ips in this material could emerge and attack and kill many aesthetically important trees in this high-use recreation site. All of the debris should be piled in open areas and covered with polyethylene sheeting.1/

Technical Information

Insects - Tentatively identified as Ips pini (Say), I. calligraphus Germar, and I. plastographus (LeConte).

Host - Ponderosa pine, Pinus ponderosa Laws.

Material Infested - Thinning debris which has been bucked and stacked.

Location of Infestation - Cedar Creek Recreation Site.

Discussion and Recommendations

Past experience has shown that, during drought periods, outbreaks of ips become magnified. Trees are more susceptible and ips population buildups more dramatic. With the ips already present in the large amount of breeding material and drought conditions as they are, preventive action should be taken.

1/ Buffam, P. E., and D. D. Lucht. 1968. Use of polyethylene sheeting for control of Ips spp. in logging debris. J. Econ Entomol. 61: 1465-6.

All of the green down material should be piled in open areas where the sun will hit the pile during most of the day. All protruding branches should be trimmed off before the piles are covered with 4-mil clear polyethylene. The piles must remain covered for 3 to 4 weeks.

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